

1 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
2 **FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**
3 **SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

3 SYLVIA GONZALEZ,)
4 Plaintiff,) Case Number SA-20-CV-1151-DAE
5 vs.) San Antonio, Texas
6 CITY OF CASTLE HILLS,)
7 TEXAS; EDWARD TREVINO, II)
8 Mayor of Castle Hills,)
9 Sued in Hi Individual)
10 Capacity; JOHN SIEMENS)
11 Chief of the Castle Hills)
12 Police Department, Sued in) His Individual Capacity;
13 and ALEXANDER WRIGHT, Sued) in His Individual
14 Capacity,)
15 Defendants.) August 1, 2025

14 *****

15 **MEDIATION SETTLEMENT TERMS**

16 **BEFORE THE HONORABLE MAGISTRATE JUDGE HENRY J. BEMPORAD**

17 *****

18 **APPEARANCES**

19 For Plaintiff: Mr. Patrick M. Jaicomo
20 Mr. William R. Aronin
21 Institute for Justice
22 901 North Glebe Road, Suite 900
23 Arlington, Virginia 22203
24 pjaicomo@ij.org
25 waronin@ij.org

1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED

2
3 For Defendants: Mr. Lowell F. Denton
4 Ms. Clarissa M. Rodriguez
5 Ms. Corina Sanchez
6 Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal, &
7 Zech, PC
8 2517 North Main Avenue
9 San Antonio, Texas 78212
10 lfdenton@rampagelaw.com
11 cmrodriguez@rampagelaw.com
12 csanchez@rampagelaw.com

13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25 Transcriber: Ms. April Balcombe, CSR, CRR, CRC
501 West 5th Street, Suite 4150
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 391-8795
April_Balcombe@txwd.uscourts.gov

Proceedings reported by computerized stenography,
transcript produced by computer-aided transcription.

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 THE COURT: All right. We are on the record
3 in the Case Number SA:20-cv-1151. That's Sylvia
4 Gonzalez versus the City of Castle Hills, Texas, Edward
5 JR Trevino II, John Siemens, and Alexander Wright.

6 I have been mediating -- this is Henry
7 Bemporad, the United States Magistrate Judge. I have
8 been mediating the case today, on August 31st [sic], and
9 the parties have reached a settlement. I'm going to
10 announce the terms of the settlement on the record to
11 make sure that all of the parties agree.

12 So the terms of settlement are as follows:

13 First, the amount of money to be paid to
14 Plaintiff, the City of Castle Hills agrees to pay
15 \$500,000 to Ms. Gonzalez, that there are a number of
16 other provisions --

17 MR. DENTON: Your Honor?

18 THE COURT: -- in the agreement.

19 Yes?

20 MR. DENTON: Your Honor, just so the record is
21 clear, that payment will be made by the Texas Municipal
22 League Intergovernmental Risk Pool on behalf of the City
23 of Castle Hills.

24 THE COURT: Yes, thank you. I would -- I
25 would have never said it correctly, Mr. Denton, so I

1 appreciate that.

2 Before that happens or -- and along with
3 that, the other parts of the agreement are as follows:

4 By August 31st of 2025, Plaintiff will
5 submit to the Defendant -- Defendant, City of Castle
6 Hills, and the other Defendants, for their approval an
7 amended complaint.

8 This amended complaint will have the effect
9 of removing the Defendants sued in their individual
10 capacity and causes of action against them. They
11 will -- the Plaintiff will also submit to the Defense a
12 proposed joint statement as to the resolution of the
13 case.

14 If that is all acceptable to the defense,
15 this matter will be placed on the agenda for the
16 September 9th meeting of the City of Castle Hills for
17 its -- the approval of the -- of the City Council, or
18 the City, and -- and there will be a report of that.

19 Once that is done and the settlement
20 agreement is executed, the motion -- an unopposed motion
21 to amend the complaint will be submitted, removing those
22 Defendants from the case that I mentioned before.

23 There will be -- whatever drafting
24 instructions for the payment will be -- that information
25 will be provided by the Plaintiff to the Defense. There

1 is also a training component of the agreement. That
2 training will be offered by the Texas Municipal --

3 MR. ARONIN: League.

4 THE COURT: -- League --

5 MR. ARONIN: -- Intergovernmental Risk Pool.

6 THE COURT: -- Intergovernmental Risk Pool.

7 I am never going to remember the name of
8 that organization.

9 The training will be on First Amendment
10 retaliation cases to specifically include the Supreme
11 Court's decision in Gonzalez versus Trevino.

12 That training will be offered to all of the
13 Texas Municipal League's clients but will be implemented
14 or accomplished in the City of Castle Hills and its
15 employees within one calendar year.

16 I think those are all of the terms of the
17 agreement.

18 Let me start with Plaintiff's counsel. Is
19 that -- did I capture all of the terms of the agreement?

20 MR. JAICOMO: I believe -- I believe also
21 ensuring that the agenda item is --

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. JAICOMO: -- that the settlement is on the
24 actual agenda item for that September 9th meeting?

25 THE COURT: Yes, the parties to -- the parties

1 to jointly review the agenda item and approve.

2 MR. JAICOMO: And I believe it is reasonable
3 to do so by August 31st, the same sort of approval
4 dates?

5 THE COURT: The draft agenda item, that same
6 date?

7 MR. DENTON: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. JAICOMO: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Is that the Plaintiff's agreement?

11 MR. JAICOMO: With that, that covers our
12 agreement. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: All right. Let me go around.

14 Is that the Defense agreement as well?

15 MR. DENTON: That is the Defense agreement.

16 THE COURT: Ms. Gonzalez, do you agree with
17 this settlement, ma'am?

18 MS. GONZALEZ: Yes, I do.

19 THE COURT: All right. Very well.

20 I thank the parties very much. This was an
21 extremely interesting mediation, and I am so happy that
22 we were able to resolve this matter amicably.

23 And we're in recess.

24 *(Proceedings concluded.)*

25 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1
2
3 I, APRIL C. BALCOMBE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE
4 FOREGOING WAS TRANSCRIBED FROM AN ELECTRONIC RECORDING
5 MADE AT THE TIME OF THE AFORESAID PROCEEDINGS AND IS A
6 CORRECT TRANSCRIPT, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY, MADE FROM
7 THE PROCEEDINGS IN THE ABOVE-ENTITLED MATTER, AND THAT
8 THE TRANSCRIPT FEES AND FORMAT COMPLY WITH THOSE
9 PRESCRIBED BY THE COURT AND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE
10 UNITED STATES, ON THIS 8th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.
11
12

13 /S/April C. Balcombe
14 APRIL C. BALCOMBE, CSR, CRR
15 Official Court Reporter
16 United States District Court
17 Austin Division
18 501 West 5th Street, Suite 4150
19 Austin, Texas 78701
20 (512) 391-8795
21 SOT Certification No. 5752
22 Expires: 7-31-26
23
24
25

APRIL C. BALCOMBE, CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS (SAN ANTONIO)